

## GOLF FORE LIFE TESTIMONIALS

When I needed an instructor in 2008, Tim was the first person I thought of. He's perfect for this profession in so many ways: He's always positive, always super professional and always on time.

In the 15 years I've worked with him, I can't think of one time where Tim didn't show up for a lesson. Something undoubtedly comes up with someone who has a schedule like him, but not with Tim. That's been wonderful to have here. His daily regimen is so consistent, and that's why he's been successful with teaching the game of golf.

I always feel confident giving a new golfer his phone number, because I know he's going to be reliable and do a great job. He truly cares about his students -- so much so that he hasn't gotten back into his own golf game until recently. He's always putting others in front of him.

I'm very proud of the foundation that Tim has built here at Applewood and what him and Landon have done to grow and retain an incredible community of golfers.

— **Brian Melody**, General Manager

I have gone to Golf Fore Life since I was 8, and Tim Pratt has been my golf swing instructor since I can remember. The relationship we have built over the years is amazing. He has become like a second grandpa to me.

Golf Fore Life has helped me find my love for the game of golf, while teaching me the importance of confidence and hard work.

With Tim's help, I played Varsity golf all four years of my high school career, was First Team All-Conference all four years, First Team All-State two years, and helped my team to a state championship my sophomore year. Today, I am playing college golf at the division two level at MSU Denver. I credit the Learning Center with my ability to get to where I am today and still go back and see them once a week.

I believe Golf Fore Life would be an excellent recipient for the award. I owe so much of my success to their hard work.

— **Sydney Eye**

My son loves the Applewood junior golf program and has been with them for about 4 years. This well-developed program provides a strong golfing foundation, teaching fundamentals with a fun and competitive edge. Applewood junior golf program molds students into well rounded golfers by encouraging proper technique, accountability, sportsmanship, a strong golf IQ and etiquette.

Coach Landon Willett is a talented, positive and trustworthy influence in my sons life Thank you Applewood, Tim and Landon.

— **Carolyn Lehto**

The adult and youth instructional programs at Applewood Golf Course have an excellent reputation and draw participants from across the Denver metro area. Golf lessons, continuing education classes and youth camps are run by knowledgeable professionals who teach their students with individualized instruction and dedication that is rare. Costs are very affordable, and students of all ages and skill levels have fun while learning the great game of golf.

But these facts don't explain the entire story behind the Golf Fore Life Learning Center at Applewood. In my experience with the Learning Center, golf lessons are just the tip of the iceberg. I am a resident of Lakewood, Colorado, who has been taking lessons at the Learning Center since 2014.

During those years, the lessons and practice sessions provided by Tim Pratt have become a regular part of my schedule. I've developed a deep love for the game of golf that has affected many facets of my life. I progressed from a beginner golfer in 2014 to a club champion in 2018, and have made many wonderful friends and golfing companions through the Learning Center. All of this is due to the atmosphere of acceptance, support and dedication to the game that Tim Pratt has created. He is a unique individual who brings a level of expertise to his teaching that inspires his students.

Tim's positive personality and fun approach to teaching have developed loyal friends and followers who have attended classes year-round year after year. Tim addresses every aspect of the game in his classes. He teaches the mechanics of the golf swing with an emphasis on each person's style of learning and athletic abilities. He places special emphasis on the short game and uses it as a foundation for the full swing.

During Continuing Education classes (which are held multiple times per week), Tim oversees "supervised practice" with individualized input for each student. This unique format allows each student to work on their swing, regardless of their skill level. Tim also teaches his students about physical fitness, especially as it applies to the golf swing. With Tim's help, I learned about resistance training in the gym, which has become the foundation for my own health and fitness.

The mental aspect of golf is also a focus of classes at the Learning Center. Tim teaches his students to maintain a balance between improving their game and simply having fun. I can attest that this balance can be difficult, but having fun and enjoying the game is the ultimate goal.

Many of us have made the Learning Center a "second home" where we learn about the game of golf, develop friendships and enjoy the company of a special group of people. A good

example of this dedication is seen below; this photo was taken on a Saturday morning in March after a long winter.

Students arrived to shovel off a place to practice on the range, to gather with friends, and enjoy the morning, despite cool temperatures and several inches of snow.



In 2015, the golf course and the Learning Center were in jeopardy. A developer submitted a rezoning application with Jefferson County with plans to convert Applewood to a housing subdivision. After the initial shock of the announcement subsided, friends of the golf course mobilized and fought the redevelopment.

The effort was led by Kathy Lower, a student of Tim's and devoted member of the Learning Center. A highly accomplished attorney, Kathy gathered a formidable army of Applewood supporters and mounted a campaign to discredit the developers, who made multiple unfounded claims about the golf course. Through the efforts of the "Applewood army", the developer's application was denied and the golf course was saved.

I was privileged to participate in the effort and can attest that a major impetus for the fight was to save the Learning Center.

As a complement to lessons, the Learning Center group has ventured outside of Applewood for several fun golf trips. For the past four years, about 25 members traveled to Phoenix, Arizona, and St. George, Utah, for annual Tim Pratt Invitational golf trips.

We played golf during the day and gathered together in the evenings for dinner and conversations and fun.



These trips brought our group even closer, and we now share funny stories and memories that we all cherish. Truly a special group of diverse individuals – lawyers, teachers, pilots, doctors, scientists, contractors, accountants, etc., all united by a love of golf and a leader that brought us together. Thank you, Tim!

— **Chris Peterson**

My experience with the Golf Fore Life learning program at Applewood Golf Course (AGC) goes back to 2003, so about 16 years' worth of experience. That is a long time. I want to briefly tell our family story because it highlights many aspects of the AGC learning program that set it apart.

My daughter was ten years old when she started going to the Junior summer camps and this was followed about 6 years later with my son attending multiple weeks of camp every summer for many years. Both kids continued beyond summers and took the fall twice-weekly classes, and both played golf in high school. AGC offers access for local high school teams to practice at AGC. The junior and high school golf programs were not just a way for my kids to get introduced to golf, but also to improve their skills, and most importantly as kids, to have fun doing it. But they also formed bonds with the instructors, whether temporary instructors or with the year-round pro Tim Pratt. AGC brought something to my kids besides golf instruction, it showed them what it is like to be part of a community.

And now, I myself am taking lessons (again) and in fact, I may be a life-long student! The Continuing Education Group lessons are a phenomenal deal. If you take advantage of the dates and times offered, you have access to several days per week of instruction for one hour/day. I smile when I play with my kids now, because as we play, they say things like “did Tim teach you the big circle and small circle concept on the putting green?” and many more things that they learned in their years of golf lessons. I can visualize my kids teaching their kids someday all of the things they learned at AGC. It truly is “Golf Fore Life”.

— **Karen Kelley**

Can you imagine looking forward to being nagged? I couldn't, until I signed up for golf lessons with Tim Pratt at his Learning Center at Applewood Golf Course. Of course, I didn't know about the nagging at first. Five years ago, I decided it was time for me to learn to play golf. Out of sheer luck, I found Tim's Learning Center and signed up for his four-week group lesson for beginning golfers. When those sessions ended, Tim invited me to join his Continuing Ed class. That's when the nagging began.

Continuing Ed is just what it sounds like – a group of students practice together with Tim and he comments, nudges, suggests – OK, nags – us about our mechanics. And we love it. Many of his students have been with Tim for years, some even following him to Applewood from another golf course. And having worked with him for five years, I know why. He's a great golf coach. He knows how to work with students of all ages and abilities. He's a patient, hilarious, generous,

caring nag – I mean, person. So many Tim-isms: Oh, did I say that out loud? Do I have to use my outside voice? SWEEP THE GRASS. Are you married (if you've been lucky enough to hit a pretty shot)? FINISH!

You should count yourself lucky if you ever have a chance to work with Tim. I do.

— **Kathy Lower**

As a golfer, the BEST decision I made was to enroll in Applewood's Golf Fore Life program with Tim Pratt as the instructing Pro. I decided to 'play golf' after I retired and was so frustrated that I was either going to quit, or learn how to play. Over 5 years in the Continuing Ed group, my game has evolved into something I am proud of, although it is a work in progress. Tim is a great teacher, and an amazing mentor. He has such a can do spirit and makes our 'lessons' not only a learning experience, but fun.

— **Barbara Schirkofsky**

My family and I have been involved in the Learning Center for over seven years and each of us has benefited from the experience. Personally, I started playing golf seven years ago and was referred to Applewood by a scratch golfer who said the environment was positive and the instruction would be tailored to my learning style and present abilities. That has been absolutely true!

In particular, Tim Pratt was able to gently suggest changes I needed to make without overwhelming me. Every time I had a question about why certain things would be happening in my game, he could give an explanation as well as drills that could help me solve the problem. The attitude of taking golf seriously enough to get better but also encouraging everyone to enjoy the sport has invigorated everyone in the classes.

My husband, Kirk, has been playing golf since childhood but has struggled at times to get his game back in order. Tim helped him buy golf clubs that would fit his swing and has helped him make the changes he needs to consistently solidly hit the ball.

My grandchildren have taken up the sport after becoming involved in the children's program. They started at around age five and want to keep playing whenever possible. The young instructors have been able to give them skills that can make them feel successful and competent while creating fun games that keep them engaged and smiling on the course.

My daughter, daughter in laws, and nieces had a group class with Tim. Again, they still talk about what fun it was and how the specific, consistent instruction has allowed them to play golf in different social situations without embarrassment. Several have found their own "mom" golf groups to enjoy.

In my son's work, he needs to play golf competently to connect with business associates. He has participated in the coaching groups and has been so encouraged by how quickly his stroke improved. He and his wife feel very welcomed by all the participants in these coaching classes.

Overall, Tim and Dave have made golf fun! The community that has developed with fellow golfers has made Applewood feel like hanging out with family. I feel so fortunate that our friend encouraged me to start golf through the Learning Center at Applewood. I have continued to recommend Applewood to so many people, especially when they notice improvement in my game!

— **Sara Quackenbus**